



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2006 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Tom Brower, Ray Gruntz, Mary Simpson, Lawrence Connell, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Bert Benevento, Jeff Merz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Apaka, Jack Myers, David Chen, John Kaimi, Michael Peters, Jim Poole.

GUESTS: George Melanka, Bob Kessler (WRA), Mary Cherry, Joan Naguwa (Waikiki CC), Representative Anne Stevens, Stefan, Bob Stelger (Waikiki Imperial Condo), Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office); Major Thomas Nitta, Lt. Melvin Aiona, Sgt. Emerick LaMontagni, Officer Easley (HPD, District 6 –Waikiki), Larua Millman, Emily Reed, Jan Bappe, Capt. Lee Marquez (HFD-Waikiki Station), Daisy Murai, Senator Gordon Trimble, Vince Espino and Leland Onekea (IHOP), Rick Kornowski, Francis Chun, Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Michelle Matson (Save Our Kakaako Makai Coalition), Nancy Hedlund (Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11), Marilyn Verner (The Imperial), Scott Muraoka (Board of Water Supply), Representative Scott Nishimoto, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Marsha Wienert (Governor's Office), Deepak Neupane (Hawaii Community Development Authority [HCDA]), Randi Thomas, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported for the month of January 2006 the Operating Account balance was \$898.95, the Publicity Account balance was \$1033.32, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. **Flood moved and Among seconded to accept the report. The motion carried unanimously.**

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley announced the following:

RESIGNATION OF BOARD SECRETARY POSITION - Peters has resigned as Board secretary. Election of a new secretary will be placed on the next agenda.

BOARD MINUTES ON THE WEB SITE – The minutes of the November meeting and corrections to the September and October minutes are posted on the City web site.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Marquez reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 1 structure, 2 brush and 5 rubbish fires; 117 medical and 2 search and rescue emergencies.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Every home should have a working smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned 4 – 12 inches below the ceiling and away from air vents.

The following are results from a survey conducted of 80,000 elementary school students in which almost 48,000 responded: 87 percent of the homes had smoke detectors and 2 percent were not certain whether one existed. Of the 87 percent, 67 percent of the families tested their detector that month and only 71 percent of the smoke detectors were operational. This survey enforced our belief that "every home should have a working smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level."



There were no questions from the Board or guests. Capt. Marquez was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Aiona reported the following:

1. Statistics for January compared to December (Jan/Dec) included: 5/8 robberies, 23/50 burglaries, 225/228 thefts, 68/76 thefts from vehicles.
2. Arrests included five for thefts from vehicles, three for robberies, and three for assaults.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz expressed thanks for action on crystal meth cases, reducing the amount of the drug available.
2. In response to Chair Finley, no department legislative liaison report was available at this time on bills the department has in the legislature.

Major Nitta, Lt. Aiona, Sgt. LaMontagni, and Officer Easley were thanked for attending the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Scott Muraoka, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. There were no water main breaks last month.
2. Entries are being accepted from school students in grades K – 6, for the Water Conservation Poster Contest until March 9. The theme is “Each and Every Day I Save Water My Way.” Winners receive a savings bond and will have their posters printed in the 2007 calendar. See the BWS website: www.boardofwatersupply.com.
3. March 5 – 11 is Detect A Leak Week. Promotional flyers and toilet tank leak detection tablets will be available at the Board of Water Supply office on S. Beretania Street, satellite city halls, various hardware stores, and at the Board’s March meeting. There will also be a contest to win a free water audit.
4. In response to Gruntz’ question from last month’s meeting, the pH of water in the Waikiki area is 8.1 – 8.3, with 7 being the average islandwide, and the higher number meaning the water is less acidic and more alkaline.
5. In response to a question about filing damage claims, such as from a broken water main, interested persons should call 748-5041 for more information.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz questioned requests from BWS for water conservation when there is increased urban development with no building permits being denied, and if surveys have been done to safeguard the water supply, and suggested there be a building moratorium until a survey is done. Muraoka noted that BWS does have long-term sustainability plans, and there are resources available for years to come, there is no need to fear running out of ground water. Conservation is necessary, especially during the summer to protect wells from getting too low.
2. In response to Connell, recycled water from a sewage treatment plant is used for irrigating golf courses in the Ewa area.
3. In response to Connell about why doesn’t Hawaii put fluoride in the water, Muraoka reported he would follow up, and Benevento reported that fluoride is not necessarily desirable in the water supply. Studies have shown it can have poisonous effects on human health.

4. Follow up will be done on Erteschik's question about the need to supply water versus the carrying capacity.

Muraoka was thanked for attending the meeting.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY KAKAAKO MAKAI DEVELOPMENT – Nancy Hedlund, from the Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board, reported that the Board adopted a resolution "To request an immediate 'hold' on all actions of the HCDA regarding Kakaako Makai Development." The resolution opposes the sale of public land to a private company, and requests there be a "hold" until there is: a) full review of the adequacy of HCDA's process of using community input prior to issuing requests for proposals and implementation of procedures to increase use of citizen input, b) completion of an EIS, c) revision of current HCDA structure and rules to achieve compliance with the historically defined community to restrict development to 45 foot elevations, d) revision of HCDA structure and rules to include voting members who represent citizens from community residents, people who come from the area for recreation, and business people. Hedlund noted there are approximately a dozen bills in the legislature on this matter, there is public opposition to the sale of public lands to a private developer, the project will impact view planes, community support of the bills in the legislature is requested, the area is a brownfield (contaminated) because the private owners who fouled the land when they leased it. The money from the land sale is needed for the clean up, selling the land is not the answer, park land is needed.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that this area is zoned for mixed use, and that the UH Medical School, was a low-rise building. Hedlund noted the height limit is 200 feet, and the 45-foot height limit was proposed years ago.
2. In response to a question from Merz, HCDA is only required to prepare an Environmental Assessment, not an Environmental Impact Statement, for this development. Merz noted that a number of master plans have been made for this area and that more hearings need to be held. He also noted that a number of interested parties did not receive notice of Requests for Proposals for this development.
3. Among opposed development of this area.
4. In response to a question, Hedlund noted that prompt Board support of the resolution is requested as the legislature is working on bills to address community concerns about the development, and the bills are progressing.
5. Gruntz noted there is opposition to the process HCDA used for this development.
6. Erteschik and Benevito suggested the Board take action on this matter tonight.

Deepak Neupane, project manager, Hawaii Community Development Authority, addressed the Board. He provided the Board with informational materials about this development. He reported that:

1. Various development proposals for this area have been made over the years, and an EIS was done in 1994 which included residential development. For the current project, the State Office of Environmental Quality Control ruled that an EIS was not required.
2. In response to reports that Requests For Proposals (RFP) were not received by interested persons, he noted that the RFP was released last year and the law was followed.
3. As a result of public meetings, the developer, Alexander and Baldwin, has modified its original plans.
4. The 200-foot height limit is the equivalent of Aloha Tower or the Gold Bond building.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The project is being reviewed by the State legislature and no construction start date is available at this time.
2. Gruntz noted that HCDA was created for the public good, but the public has opposition to this project, which if developed, would set a precedent that could affect other public lands.
3. Brower questioned if this project could be successful without the residential development component. The residential component is required to make financing work.
4. Brower questioned if the project could do the residential development mauka of Ala Moana Blvd. HCDA responded that the State does not own any land mauka of Ala Moana Blvd.
5. Merz noted that this project could have been handled better and suggested that HCDA's mandate and rules be changed, and that if the public has a problem with the project, it should be delayed.
6. Among questioned of a project on Smith Street was affordable. Neuopane noted that it requires 20 percent of the residential projects be affordable, approximately \$200,000 for a one or two-bedroom unit. It was acknowledged that this is a start, but not enough.
7. In response to Adams, the project includes 55 acres of park space, including a park along the waterfront, and there will be no blocking of views of the ocean.
8. In response to Gruntz, no specifics could be given to the Board on how long it has to take action on this matter.
9. Matson, from Save Our Kakaako Makai Coalition, supported the Ala Moana Neighborhood Board's position, disagreed with the height comparisons, noted the Aloha Tower and Gold Bond building are lower, opposed this project as it would set a precedent. She also noted the park requirement was not being met, as the requirement is for usable flat park space, and that park space with hills, does not qualify. Park space is needed as parks such as Ala Moana and Kapiolani are over burdened.
10. Kessler, Waikiki Area Residents Association reported that the group opposed the sale of public lands and suggested that HCDA should not proceed with the project until public concerns are addressed.
11. A resident reported that at the September 7 public meeting on this project, public testimony opposing it was presented, and that testimony for the project was largely from those who had a financial interest in seeing the project proceed, and the developer had to be forced to release plans to the public.
12. Senator Trimble suggested that there be no development until new tsunami inundation maps are completed, opposed development makai of Ala Moana Boulevard, and opposed the sale of public lands, particularly when we currently have a State surplus. Further, the State should not be engaging in a development project when the building in the private sector is so hot. The State should wait until private development slows as counterbalance in the economy and so that State could the labor for less.
13. A resident noted there is no need for this project at this time, and that changes to HCDA are needed and that it should turn over its roads and parks to the City.
14. Representative Stevens suggested the Board take a position tonight as bills in the legislature are progressing and input on them is desired.
15. Brower suggested the Board make a decision tonight.

Ertschik moved and Gruntz seconded that the Board support the Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11's resolution.

16. Erteschik, Adams and Gruntz noted their support for the Ala Moana Neighborhood Board's position on this matter.
17. Benevento noted the lack of public notice about this project and opposed the sale of public lands.
18. Among noted there are some advantages to increasing density, noted the need for more park space and to protect view planes.

The motion carried, 9-1-1. Yea: Adams, Among, Brower, Gruntz, Simpson, Connell, Erteschik, Benevento, Merz. **Nay:** Finley. **Abstain:** Flood.

8:15 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Administration is working on property tax relief, proposals include a \$40 million rebate, creating of a new "homeowners" category of property owners, and is creating an advisory committee on other measures. The City Council has introduced a number of bills, but is limited in what it can do until it receives the budget from the Administration so it knows the City's financial situation.
2. In response to questions about the parking restrictions on Ala Wai Boulevard for street cleaning, the restrictions are from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monday and Friday. The street cleaning is necessary and helps keep trash from getting into the Ala Wai Canal.
3. The Pro Bowl contributed \$1 million to local charities.
4. A centennial festival carnival, part of festivities to mark Honolulu's 100th birthday, will be held on Magic Island, March 30 – April 2. Admission is free.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted the plans if for Ala Wai Boulevard to be resurfaced in approximately 18 months and there is a need for the City to redo the bike lane markings on Ala Wai Boulevard to improve the separation between parked cars and the bike lane. Rollman noted, in response to Gruntz and a resident that it would probably be too expensive to remove the landscaped bulb outs and that space limits making the bike lane wider. Benevento suggested that the markings be expedited if repaving of Ala Wai Boulevard is not scheduled for some time.
2. A resident noted tow truck company trucks are waiting for drivers to park on Ala Wai Boulevard after the street cleaning has been completed, but before the parking restriction hours end. Resident Stefan suggested the street cleaning be only once a week. Rollman will follow up.
3. Resident Stefan noted trees in planters on side streets, including Olohana, Keoniana and Namahana streets, are dieing. Rollman will follow up.
4. A resident suggested the street cleaning be expanded to other streets, including Hobron Lane and Kaioo Drive. Rollman will follow up.
5. Follow up will be done on Grutz's question on how many abandoned or stolen vehicles were found on Ala Wai Boulevard when the first cars were removed for the street cleaning.

6. Ms. Robinson noted that in some Mainland cities, parking restrictions for street cleaning last only two hours, but acknowledged that the street cleaning is needed here.
7. Follow up will be one about a contractor's connection to a fire hydrant and dumping problem on Ohua Avenue.
8. McBride noted a homeless person occupying a bench near the Prince Kuhio statue. Rollman noted the homeless problem is difficult because Honolulu does not have a loitering law.
9. Adams suggested there be a tax surcharge on unused property, such as on those owned by absentee owners. Rollman noted that the advisory committee can consider this.
10. Chair Finley noted the City Council will meet tomorrow on real property tax relief bills.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU - Lori Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The Council will meet tomorrow to work on property tax relief bills.
2. Resolution 05-399, relating to a study on the carrying capacity of Waikiki, is up for adoption at tomorrow's Council meeting.
3. Bill 72, relating to requiring implementation of curbside recycling by January 1, 2007, is up for second reading at tomorrow's Council meeting.
4. The Council is also working on a bill for a law to impound vehicles of drivers arrested for street racing.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz supported the bill to impound vehicles arrested for street racing.
2. The resolution on a study on carrying capacity of Waikiki will not create a law as a bill would.
3. Merz asked about the Tusitala parking issue and asked Wingard to follow up. Merz is concerned that the City is doing yet another study that will sit on the shelf.
4. Chair Finley noted he will place the street racing bill on the Board's agenda. In response to a question from Gruntz, Wingard noted the bill includes "contest" in the definition of street racing.

Wingard was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. Due to the multiple committee meetings being held simultaneously, having a quorum of members present has been a problem.
2. There is a power struggle going on between the legislature and the Governor.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz, Trimble reported that there are bills in the legislature addressing reforms to liquor commissions.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE ANNE STEVENS - Representative Stevens distributed an informational brochure and reported the following:

1. The brochure lists bills she has introduced, including one on disabling the noise from vehicle back up warnings between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., if the driver has an adult assistant.
2. A bill on bike paths has passed the Transportation Committee and referred to the Budget Committee.
3. Twelve bills have been introduced about the Kakaako development. There will be a community rally on the Kakaako-Makai project, February 20, 11:00 a.m., Kakaako Waterfront Amphitheater.
4. Aloha Aina Earth Day Recycling Community Cleanup Project, Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, February 25, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Waikiki Community Center.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that bills relating to reforms to liquor commissions, to better address residents' concerns, are progressing.
2. In response to Flood, the recycling project will accept car and boat batteries, but used computer equipment will not be accepted for recycling, provisions will be made for disposal. Gruntz noted there will be free parking and additional volunteers are needed.

Representative Stevens was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Representative Nishimoto distributed his report and highlighted/added the following:

1. There will be a legislators' town meeting, February 22, McCully Library.
2. The written report includes information on State prescription drug assistance programs.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz, Representative Nishimoto reported that two past community cleanups generated approximately \$4000, and \$6000.

Representative Nishimoto was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Marsha Weinert, representing the Governor's Office, distributed the weekly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Tomorrow there will be a blessing ceremony for the Pier 2 cruise terminal.
2. The Hawaii Commemorative Quarter Commission has been established to design Hawaii's quarter. Suggestions for designs are welcome, and will be narrowed to three to five for the U.S. Mint to create the designs. The Governor will make the final selection in mid-2007.
3. Material on identity theft, from the Attorney General's Office, was made available.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Among, follow up will be done on the start date for \$600,000 in drainage improvements for Ala Wai Elementary School.
2. In response to Matson, follow up will be done on details about the Pier 2 cruise ship terminal project.

Wienert was thanked for attending the meeting.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (WIA) – Gonsales reported upcoming Sunset on the Beach events are scheduled for February 25 and 26, March 3 and 4, and March 18 and 19.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Erteschik suggested that perhaps the Board should have more substantive conversations with WIA that just announcements. In response to Erteschik, follow up will be done on providing information on WIA's functions. WIA functions separately from the Waikiki Business Improvement District (BID). Gruntz noted that Chair Finley attends the WIA meetings, and Gonsales noted more information is available on their web site.
2. In response to Simpson, the BID is responsible for cleanup work in the area.
3. Follow up will be done on Gruntz's and Among's suggestion that prison inmates be used to do cleanup work in the area.

9:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

TAX INITIATIVE – Kessler, from Let Honolulu Vote, is circulating a petition to change the City Charter to allow citizen initiated tax initiatives. The petition is available for interested persons to sign and circulate to gather more signatures. There were no questions from the Board or guests. Kessler was thanked for attending the meeting.

9:13 P.M.

IHOP – Vince Espino, franchise holder, and architect Leland Onekea, provided a brief background IHOP, formerly known as International House of Pancakes, and plans to open a restaurant at 2211 Kuhio Avenue, in space currently occupied by an existing restaurant. This would be first IHOP restaurant on Oahu. The architecture is designed to be different from Mainland restaurants' normal architecture to blend into the area, and include moss rocks and tiki torches.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz expressed thanks for the restaurant's non-traditional design.
2. In response to Flood's question, parking for the restaurant will be available in the building's hotel lot.
3. Hours have not been determined, but 24 hours is likely. No liquor license is being sought. Merz supported 24-hours.
4. Construction could start in one and a half months, and open June 15. The restaurant will seat 185 and employ 50 – 60 persons.

Flood moved and Merz seconded that the Board support plans for the IHOP. The motion carried unanimously.

9:26 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOUSE BILL 2404 AND SENATE BILL 2367, RELATING TO SUNSHINE LAW – Erteschick reported existing laws are unclear about members of boards and commissions attending outside meetings. He noted he does not

favor changes to create exemptions from the law, but favors flexibility in the number of members allowed to attend outside meetings. He noted the Senate bill has not passed in committee, while the House bill is progressing. **Flood moved and Among seconded that the Board supports the bills.**

Gruntz stated his support for the House bill.

The motion carried unanimously.

9:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2005 AND JANUARY 2006 MEETINGS – Chair Finley noted a list of previously submitted corrections for the October and November meetings was provided to Board members. Gruntz and Benevento made additional corrections to the October and November meetings, and will forward them to Chair Finley.

Flood moved and Erteschik seconded that the minutes for the October and November meetings be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

For the minutes of the January 2006 meeting, the spelling of Anne Stevens' name should be corrected under Guests, and under Senator Gordon Trimble.

Flood moved and Merz seconded that the minutes for the January 2006 meeting be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

9:37 p.m.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

1. Chair Finley noted receipt of a notice from the Department of Planning and Permitting for the Hilton Hotel Lagoon project on March 3rd, 10:30 a.m., Ala Wai Golf Course. Interested persons may see him for more information.
2. Gruntz commended the Board's new Neighborhood Assistant for his work on the minutes.
3. Gruntz thanked Chair Finley for the Civil Defense presentation at the Board's November meeting.
4. Gruntz noted Board members Myers and Poole have each missed three or more meetings. Chair Finley will follow up with Myers and Poole.
5. Irish Rose - Randi Thomas provided an update on arguments presented in court and noted that there will be a court ruling on the case in 30 days, and provisions for another 30 days for an appeal of the court ruling. The Liquor Commission will decide on February 15th if they will support the legislation she has proposed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant